

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

The examiner in his office action dated November 15, 2004 indicated the subject matter of dependent claims 2 and 4 as being allowable. Applicants by the instant amendment have amended independent claim 1 so as to include the subject matter as indicated allowable claim 4. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

In addition to the foregoing, dependent claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim from which it depended. Accordingly, amended claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

Previously rejected claims 3 and 5 now depend from amended claim 1 and, accordingly, these claims are likewise allowable.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending are now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in

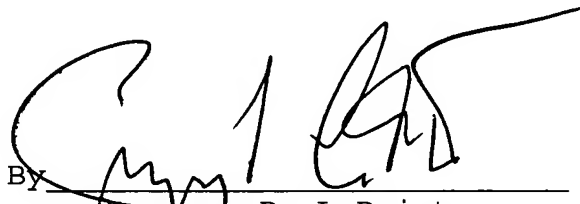
this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

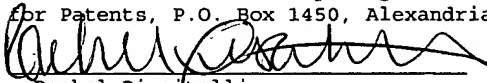
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on February 7, 2005.


Rachel Piscitelli